

T H E

Little Review;

O R, A N

Inquisition of Scandal;

Consisting in *Answers of Questions and Doubts,
Remarks, Observation and Reflection.*

Wednesday, June 6. 1705.

I N T R O D U C T I O N.

IN the Preface to the *First Volume* of the *Review*, the Author has given a True Account of the Original of this Work, how remote it was to his first Intention, the Receiving Letters, Questions, and Subject of Reflection from the Inquisitive Part of the World.

As it was not in the first Design, so the Bulk of the Subject soon grew too great to be contain'd in a Fragment of a Paper, which being design'd meerly to Divert a little the Reader after the more serious Matter of the other Part of the Review, soon encreas'd by this Method to a Bulk much above the Reach of the little Room design'd for it, and impossible to be carried on with any Satisfaction to the Reader or Inquirer.

The first Remedy for this was a *Monthly Supplement* to the *Review*, which was at first some Ease to the Glut of Letters and Enquirers; but neither was this sufficient, nor could the Uncertainty of its Coming out, and the frequent Delays of the Press, and other Hurries of the Author, satisfy the World; but the Importunate Enquirers, when they had propos'd their Question very often, subjoin'd a Paragraph, earnestly desiring their Case might be in the *next Review*, or at least that it might not be deferr'd to the *Supplements*; and sometimes they

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would

would back these Motions with the *Prevailing Argument of Money* inclos'd, to procure the Grant.

These were some of the Reasons why the Work sat Uneasie on the *Review*--- But when the more Urgent Occasion of the Publick Affair in the *Review* began also to Crowd it out, and the Twin-Subjects struggled for Room; The Necessity appear'd plain, That either this Affair must set up for it self, or Die, and be wholly Omitted.

The Author of the *Review* inclin'd to the Latter, and indeed resolv'd it; but finding the Number of Enquirers still increasing, and some very pressing to revive it; and, which was yet more moving, several Persons greedy of Setting it up on their own Stock of ----- and being very sensible that his Character would a long while be answerable for their Miscarriages, he was mov'd to undertake it this Way.

As to the Persons Concern'd, he thinks it Needful only to say this, That the Assistance of Capable Persons will not be wanting to furnish the World with suitable Answers; and, as Encouragement is given, their Number will be increas'd; the other Hurries of the Author not permitting, any more than his Capacity, that he should undertake it singly.

It has been suggested, that the Author writes three or four Papers a Week; which tho' it be groundless, yet as it may move People to imagine this may suffer some Neglect, he refers it to a Proof of the Performance; declaring, tho' he thinks it needless in this Case, that he writes nothing but the *Review*, till what hand he may have in this Paper, makes an Addition.

In the Performance of this Paper, he professes to avoid all pointing at Persons, and hopes no Gentleman will make this Paper be the Handle of Private Resentments.

Scandalous, Vicious, and all sorts of ill Practices, whether Publick or Private, shall here with Impartiality, and without Respect to Parties, receive a Censure, and 'tis hoped such a one as they deserve; and we cannot but think it is very easy to reprove the Vice, and yet spare the Person.

As much as is possible, this shall be the endeavour of this Paper; but we must Repeat what has formerly been said, That if detecting a Crime so Marks out a Man, that all the World must know him, as was once alledg'd in a Case published in these Papers; such Gentlemen may thank themselves, and they owe the Scandal to the Crime it self, not to the Censure.

We earnestly desire no Gentleman will expect Answers to any Letter that does not bring with it some satisfaction of the Truth of Fact; and that they will accept our Silence in such Cases, as a Testimony that we are not sufficiently Inform'd; the design of this Paper being to make due Inquisition after the Improvement the Devil makes in the Manufacture of Vice, and to discover him as far as possible, in all his Agents, and their Meanders, Windings and Turnings in the Propagation of Crime. We hope no Man will appear so much in Confederacy with him, as to impose Falsties upon us, and so set Crime to Work in detecting of Crime.

One Observation more shall conclude this *Introduction*, and we shall study to trouble the Reader with as few Apologies as possible.

The Interval of this Paper has occasion'd a great many Letters, sent to the late Society, to be *Post-poned* and laid by ; and New Subjects coming daily in, we think it very proper to give this Notice,

That all those Gentlemen, who having sent Letters to the Society before the 1st of *May*, have receiv'd no Answer ; and the Case, by the delay of time, not too much dropt to require it, would be pleased to give themselves the trouble to Transmit them again, directed as usual, and the Method now taken to resolve them, will prevent, we hope, the usual delays, and give greater Satisfaction, as to Dispatch, than before.

T H E

Little Review, &c.

THE first Case coming before the present Society, was a *News-Writer*; by Title the *English Post*, who in two of his Papers, Calls the late Emperor of Germany *Ferdinand I.*

Being loth to begin the Censures in these Cases, with too much Severity, they told him, that if he had done it but once, they would have taken no Notice at all of it; or at least, only have Order'd him to have made an Amendment for it; but having renew'd his Mistake, and thereby satisfied the World, the Error lay no where but in his Historical Capacity, they Order'd him to rectifie his Understanding, by the help of Mr. Collier's Dictionary, or some other Accounts of the German Affairs; and that he should tell the World in Print, he meant *Leopold of Austria*, Late Emperor of Germany, and not really *Ferdinand I.* Successor to *Charles the Vth.* who was Dead just 141 Years before.

WE shall Endeavour to convince the World of our Impartiality, in all our Answers to Questions, by the particular Answer to the following Letter.

Gentlemen,

HAVING seen many Scandalous Queries, faithfully Answer'd by you, I do humbly expect the same Success in this Matter, which is not design'd against any Person or Party in particular. but only against the Guilty in general.

Qu. 1. Whether Reading of Sermons in Publick Worship be Preaching?

Qu. 2. Whether it doth not contradict all Doctrine, both of Faith and Works; Of Faith, by trusting to Pen, Ink and Paper, and not to GOD, for Assistance in his own work. Of works; the Minister declaring, he never was at the Pains to get that into his Head, which he exhorts People to lay up in their Hearts? —

Qu. 3. Whether many Hearers who complain of it, are not justly offended? —

Your faithful Answer in this, it's hoped will check the Practice, if Scandalous; or satisfy those that look upon it to be so. And herein you will Oblige many. As also,

Your Humble Servant,

D. W.

To

To Answer these things in general, we must ask the Querist two Questions, previous to the needful Reply.

1. Whether by Reading a Sermon, he means Reading Word for Word out of a Copy of some other Man's Works, any Sermon or Discourse in the Pulpit, as a Sermon of his own, or instead of Preaching to the People.

2. Or whether he means a Minister, for the help of his Memory, committing what he has studied and actually Compos'd, to Paper, that he may with more readyness and exactness deliver it to his Auditory.

Bringing the thing to this State and Explanation, the Answer is plain; — The first is no Preaching, but Imposing upon the People, abusing the Office of a Minister, and a Sordid Effect, either of Ignorance or Idleness; for the Prevention of which, the Book of Homilies was at first Compos'd, and which such People had still much better make use of, because what is there Read being Sound and Orthodox, they that hear it have it for what it is, and are not deceiv'd and impos'd upon.

But to say the other is no Preaching, or is a Contradicting all Doctrine, both of Faith and Works, is a Weakness we hope the Enquirer cannot be guilty of; since then

1. It makes one of the Essential Qualifications of a Minister, consist in a good Memory, which can have no Foundation in Scripture.

2. When a Minister that has shewn his good Principles and Capacity sufficiently, either by Dissemper, or any accident in Nature, declines in Memory, he must either cease all manner of Study, or Cease to be a Minister, neither of which, 'tis hoped, will be pretended to.

To those who will have nothing be Preaching but what shall be without Stud; or Preparation form'd into wholesome Words, but expect the Ministers now, must be like those of old, when Holy Men spake as the Spirit gave them utterance, this Answer is not at all directed; if the Querist means so; when he pleases to tell us, and prove that all the Preparation of Matter is needless and superfluous, we shall prepare a Reply to it, we hope to satisfaction.

NOTE, That this Paper will constantly be Publish'd every Wednesday and Friday Morning.

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